

REMARKS

Upon entry of the above amendments the claims will be 9 to 11.

The above amendment is in response to points set forth in the Final Rejection.

In this regard, new claim 9 is based in part on a combination of previous claims 5 and 6.

New claim 10 depends on new claim 9 which is based on previous claim 8.

New claim 11 depends on new claim 9 which is based on previous claim 7.

No new issues are raised by the above amendment and accordingly, entry is respectfully requested.

The significance of the foregoing amendments will become further apparent from the remarks below.

With regard to the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, the rejected terminology has been clarified in new claim 10.

Previous claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Suenaga et al (U.S. 6,133,170).

Claims 5-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suenaga et al (U.S. 6,133,170).

Further, claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 99/00541 and claims 5-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over this reference.

The Official Action states in item 15 that "Applicant's invention does not claim 'high ink coloring density obtained by using mercerized pulp in an inkjet recording paper.'" However, this is no longer the case.

In Official Action item 15, the determination of the presently recited liquid transfer length is referred to as a product-by-process limitation. In fact, it is a parameter defining the properties of the claimed ink jet recording paper and has nothing to do with a process for making the paper.

In the ink jet recording paper having a high ink coloring density and a high ink absorption speed compatible with high speed ink jet printers according to the present invention, it is necessary to have a specific liquid transfer length in Bristow's method as recited in the amended claim 9.

The ink jet recording paper having such specific liquid transfer length is neither disclosed nor suggested by either Suenaga et al (U.S. 6,133,170) or WO 99/00541.

In this regard, a liquid transfer length is an index for representing the property of the water absorbing speed of paper and equivalent to "a density" of the sheet, "a bond-reinforcing factor" of fibers or "a wet curl factor" of fibers defined in claim 1 of Suenaga et al (U.S. 6,133,170). Please note that the methods of determination of the bond-reinforcing factor and the wet curl factor are described in column 3, lines 41 to 57 and column 5, lines 23 to 34, respectively, in Suenaga et al. Also, see Case et al (U.S. 4,671,691) a copy of which is attached herewith, where "a shear thinning index" is recited in claim 1 and the method of the determination thereof is described in the specification, column 2, lines 23 to 30.

It should also be noted that paper having high ink coloring density and high ink absorption speed compatible with high speed ink jet printers is not an easy feature to obtain as pointed out in the present specification, particularly on pages 3 and 4.

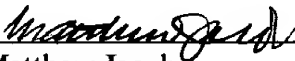
For the foregoing reasons, it is apparent the present rejections on prior art are untenable and should be withdrawn.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

An Information Disclosure Statement accompanies.

Respectfully submitted,

Yoshiaki TOMOTAKE et al.

By: 
Matthew Jacob
Registration No. 25,154
Attorney for Applicants

MJ/edg
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
October 30, 2002